

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support comprising:

an orthopedic blank impregnated with hardenable material and having an outer surface covered with hook receivable material;

~~a primary tacking arrangement for holding said blank in place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows adjustment of said blank with respect to the anatomy,~~ the primary tacking arrangement comprising at least one strip of a non-woven material having first and second opposed end portions, and hook type patches secured on the first and second ~~opposed~~ end portions, the non-woven material adapted to receive the hook type patches, ~~wherein the strip is stretchable, tearable, low profile and of insufficient strength to rigidly immobilize the splint for long-term use;~~

wherein the hook receivable material on the outer surface of the blank is adapted to receive the hook type patches of the strip;

wherein the primary tacking arrangement is configured for adjustably holding the blank in place on an injured part of a patient's anatomy such that the blank is still adjustable with respect to the anatomy when the hook type patch on the first end portion is received by the hook receivable material on the blank and the hook type

patch on the second end portion is received by at least one of the hook receivable material on the blank and the non-woven material;

wherein the strip is stretchable, tearable, low profile and incapable of securely fixing and rigidly immobilizing the blank on the anatomy as a sole securing means;

secondary holding arrangements provided over said primary tacking arrangement for immobilizing ~~functionally securing~~ the blank to the anatomy ~~in place on the patient~~ after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;

wherein the primary tacking arrangement is removable and repositionable at any location along an axial length of the blank;

whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said primary tacking arrangement is formed of hook and loop type material.

Claim 10. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank is formed of double knit spacer type material.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said splint or support has an additional piece arranged to extend through a web space between a thumb and forefinger of the patient for assisting in the location of said splint or support on the forearm of the patient.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said secondary holding arrangements comprise an exo-skeletal structure overlying said blank.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said strip is non-rectangular in shape.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the strip is removable and repositionable with respect to the splint or support.

Claim 19. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said orthopaedic blank has a padding layer on at least one side.

Claim 21. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said secondary holding arrangements include a resilient, flexible, stretchable tape.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank has a non-rectangular shape and said primary tacking arrangement comprises a plurality of extensions extending laterally from said blank.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said blank has slits along the length of the splint or support to reduce bulk after molding.

Claim 24. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein the splint or support assembly includes an anti-flexion strap for increased support.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support comprising:

an orthopedic blank impregnated with hardenable material, the blank having a covering formed of a hook receivable material;

~~a primary tacking arrangement for holding said blank in place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows adjustment of said blank with respect to the anatomy, the primary tacking arrangement comprising at least one stretchable strip of hook receivable material having first and second opposed end portions, and hook type patches located at the first and second opposed end portions, wherein the strip is a non-woven material and is stretchable, tearable, low profile and of insufficient strength to rigidly immobilize the splint for long term use;~~

wherein the hook receivable material of the blank is adapted to receive the hook type patches of the strip;

wherein the primary tacking arrangement is configured for adjustably holding the blank in place on an injured part of a patient's anatomy such that the blank is still adjustable with respect to the anatomy when the hook type patch located at the first end portion is received by the hook receivable material of the blank and the hook type patch located at the second end portion is received by at least one of the hook receivable material of the blank and the hook receivable material of the strip;

wherein the strip is stretchable, tearable, low profile and incapable of securely fixing and rigidly immobilizing the blank on the anatomy as a sole securing means;

secondary holding arrangements comprising an exo-skeletal structure overlying said blank and the primary tacking arrangement for immobilizing

~~functionally securing the blank to the anatomy in place on the patient~~ after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;

wherein the primary tacking arrangement is removable and repositionable at any location along an axial length of the blank;

whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said blank has a covering formed of hook receivable material and said primary tacking arrangement are provided with a hook type construction thereon.

Claim 27. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said orthopaedic blank has a non-rectangular shape to fit a specific portion of the anatomy.

Claim 28. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said blank is formed of double knit spacer type material.

Claim 29. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said tacking arrangements are non-rectangular in shape.

Claims 30-39. (Cancelled)

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support comprising:  
an elongate blank in roll form impregnated with hardenable material;  
at least one layer of additional non-impregnated material on at least one side  
of said blank, a first side of the blank covered with a padding material and a second  
side of the blank covered with a hook receivable material;

~~a laterally extending primary tacking arrangement for holding said blank in  
place on the injured part of the patient's anatomy in a manner that still allows  
adjustment of the blank with respect to the anatomy, the primary tacking arrangement  
including a strip defining first and second opposed end portions and hook type  
patches located at the first and second opposed end portions, wherein the strip is a  
non-woven material adapted to receive the hook type patches and is stretchable,  
tearable, low profile and of insufficient strength to rigidly immobilize the splint for  
long term use;~~

wherein the hook receivable material on the second side of the blank is  
adapted to receive the hook type patches of the primary tacking arrangement;

wherein the primary tacking arrangement is configured for adjustably holding  
the blank in place on an injured part of a patient's anatomy such that the blank is still  
adjustable with respect to the anatomy when the hook type patch located at the first  
end portion is received by the hook receivable material of the blank and the hook type  
patch located at the second end portion is received by at least one of the hook  
receivable material of the blank and the non-woven material;



wherein the strip is stretchable, tearable, low profile and incapable of securely fixing and rigidly immobilizing the blank on the anatomy as a sole securing means;

secondary holding arrangements provided over said primary tacking arrangement for ~~immobilizing-functionally-securing~~ the blank ~~to the anatomy-in place on the patient~~ after the blank has been activated and properly mounted on the patient;

wherein the primary tacking arrangements are removable and repositionable at any location along an axial length of the blank;

whereby the splint or support may be easily and properly mounted on the patient.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said additional layer is the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ padding material.

Claim 42. (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein ~~one side of said blank is covered with a padding material and the other with a hook-receivable material and~~ said primary tacking arrangement is ~~is~~ ~~is~~ provided with a hook type construction thereon.

Claim 43. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said padding material is a double knit fabric.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said hook receivable~~received~~ material is unbroken loop fabric.

Claim 45. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said blank is formed of knit spacer material.

Claim 46. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said blank is formed of multiple layers of casting material.

Claim 47. (Original) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said tacking arrangements are non-rectangular in shape.

Claim 48. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 6 wherein said non-woven material is hydrophobic.

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 25 wherein said non-woven material is hydrophobic.

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) An efficient splint or support as defined in claim 40 wherein said non-woven material is hydrophobic.